

NSC BRIEFING

20 February 1957

SOVIET PROPAGANDA

I. Soviet Anti-American Propaganda

A. A strongly anti-American propaganda campaign has been raging for the past three months.

- 1. Primarily, it is a counterattack against world reaction to Soviet actions in Hungary.**
- 2. It attempts to discredit United States policies--particularly its new Middle East and atomic base programs.**
- 3. It is aimed at restoring the USSR's prestige and diplomatic initiative.**

B. The pattern is similar to that of Moscow's campaign two years ago in reaction to the Paris agreements and the NATO decision on nuclear weapons. The tone and scope thus far, however, are far milder than that of the "hate America" campaigns of the Stalin era.

II. US subversion and espionage

A. The campaign began with a Soviet accusation that the United States was responsible for subversion not only in Hungary but in several Satellite countries and the Soviet Union as well.

- 1. By way of emphasis, these charges were submitted for the UN General Assembly's agenda on 12 December.**

B. Moscow immediately began documenting its case through published stories of American spies who were apprehended months and even

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years ago, re-emphasis on the vigilance theme, and a special televised news conference at the Soviet foreign ministry on 6 February at which a strongly anti-US official statement was read and four alleged "US spies" "confessed." Supplementary propaganda has reiterated old charges of espionage in what has amounted to a legal brief of its case before the UN.

1. Another anti-US proposal was made in the UN on 12 February.

III. US Middle East Program

- A. Moscow has run the gamut of propaganda tricks to undermine the US proposals on the Middle East, using diplomatic channels and the United Nations to dramatize its charges of US intervention and colonialism.
- B. The greatest volume and the most vigorous Soviet attacks on the US program have been beamed in Middle East languages, with emphasis on the immediate threat posed by US policy to Arab nationalist aspirations.
- C. These broadcasts set the stage for Shepilov's speech announcing a Soviet substitute for the US proposals--all consistent with the Soviet determination to prevent any intervention in the Middle East, either by the Western powers or by the United States alone.

IV. US Atomic aggression

- A. During the week ending 27 January, Moscow devoted an unusually high number (92) broadcasts to attacks on alleged US plans to establish atomic operational units on US foreign bases. Half of these were devoted to rebroadcasts of the 23 January TASS statement and the Pravda article of the same date condemning US plans.

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- B. Most of the comment, including scare-type propaganda, was beamed to countries in which the US might station such atomic groups.
- C. Warnings of Soviet retaliatory capabilities were voiced but were not prominent.
- D. Moscow's intensive propaganda effort on the US atomic threat dropped in volume after that one week. Only scattered references still appear in Soviet output.
- E. No effort was made to alarm the Soviet domestic audience.

V. Soviet vs. American foreign policy

- A. Soviet propaganda is stressing that "peaceful coexistence" is the backbone of Soviet policy, but that this pursuit is not based on Soviet weakness.
- B. It warns that vigilance and military preparedness are a continuing necessity because of American "aggressive policy," and therefore the need for socialist unity and a stronger Warsaw Pact is paramount.
- C. Divisive propaganda is being beamed to America's allies and to the Middle Eastern countries.

VI. Rockefeller Letter

- A. Moscow and Peking both have seized upon the purported letter from Nelson Rockefeller to the President, released first in East Germany.
- B. Exploiting the alleged letter primarily to discredit American policy in Afro-Asia and other under-developed countries, Moscow has beamed it on a world-wide basis. It has summarized in in Arabic at dictation speed, in Turkish, Persian, and Spanish.

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- C. Moscow's first comment was beamed to Indonesian, Vietnamese, Southeast Asian and Greek listeners, who were told that the "oil magnate's" letter exposes the political strings invariably attached to US aid and reveals the expansionist nature of US policy toward Cyprus and the Middle East.
- D. The Soviet press reprinted the text from Neues Deutschland, and a summary was broadcast to Yugoslavia.

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SOVIET PROPAGANDA

I. Three-month old anti-American propaganda campaign

- A. Counterattack against world reaction to Soviet action in Hungary.
- B. Attempt to discredit US Middle East and atomic base programs.
- C. Aimed at restoring Soviet prestige and diplomatic initiative.
Much milder than "hate America" campaigns of Stalin era.

II. US subversion and espionage

- A. Charges United States subversion in Satellites and USSR submitted to UNGA 12 December.
- B. Moscow began documenting its case, publicizing "spy" stories.
- C. Further anti-US proposal in UN on 12 February.

III. US Middle East Program attacked

- A. Whole gamut of propaganda tricks to undermine US proposals.
- B. Middle Eastern audiences have heard greatest volume of comment emphasizing immediate threat posed by US policy.
- C. Soviet determination to prevent any intervention in the Middle East, without Soviet consent.

IV. US Atomic Aggression

- A. Comment on atomic operational units on US foreign bases, beamed to all countries where US might station such groups.
- B. No effort made to alarm the Soviet domestic audience.

V. Soviet vs. American foreign policy themes

- A. Moscow stressing "peaceful coexistence," but not from weakness.
- B. Vigilance and strong Warsaw Pact necessary in view of US "aggressive" planning.

VI. Rockefeller Letter

- A. Beaming summary of letter and/or comment to all audiences.
- B. Primarily to discredit American policy in Asian-African and other underdeveloped countries.

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